

3198 to 3203. PHOENIX DACTYLIFERA.**Date palm.**

From Algeria. Received through Mr. W. T. Swingle, 1899.

"This collection of date palms was obtained from Mr. Yahia Ben Kassem, of Orleansville, Algeria. Orleansville is north of the coast region, not far from the coast of the Mediterranean, and only a slight elevation above the sea. It is outside of the region where the date palm usually matures its fruit, but Mr. Yahia has succeeded in finding a very early species which has ripened in his garden. These plants were dug up, placed in tubs, and shipped to America in March, 1899. They were forwarded upon receipt to the experiment station of Arizona, to be planted in the palm garden at Tempe, where they are now growing.

- 3198.** *Tadala* (also called *Tadala*). This very early sort, brought into general notice by Mr. Yahia, was originally introduced into Orleansville from the M'Zab region in North Sahara, where it is one of the most highly esteemed varieties. The dates are very long and slender, sometimes reaching 3 inches in length, and said to be of good flavor and to keep very well. The palm is of very vigorous growth and has very long leaves and thick stem. This plant is a sucker brought from the M'Zab in the spring of 1898. It was then planted in Mr. Yahia's garden at Orleansville, where it grew for a year, being dug up and put in a tub for shipment to America in March, 1899.
- 3199.** *Tindjonthert*. This is another variety introduced from the M'Zab country by Mr. Yahia. It is a short, thick date of good flavor. This plant was also brought from the M'Zab as a sucker in the spring of 1898 and was grown a year in Mr. Yahia's garden.
- 3200.** *Tadala*. The same variety as No. 3198. This plant was a large sucker cut from a bearing tree in Mr. Yahia's garden in Orleansville. It was removed from a tree early in March, 1899.
- 3201.** *Deglet nour*. This is a famous "light date" from the Algerian Sahara. It is the best-known African date, being sold in great quantity in the Paris and London markets. It is of medium size, amber colored, of exceedingly good quality. This plant was brought from Biskra and planted in Mr. Yahia's garden in 1897, where it remained two years, being dug up for shipment early in March, 1899. This plant produced a few flowers early in 1898.
- 3202.** *Deglet el beida*. This is one of the so-called dry dates, unlike the ordinary "soft dates," which remain attached to the fruit stalk. These fall to the ground when ripe. They are very firm in texture and are perfectly dry; they keep indefinitely and are consumed in enormous quantities by the Arabs, who prefer them to the soft dates for a regular diet. This is one of the best varieties of dry dates all through the northern Sahara. This plant is from Mr. Yahia's garden at Orleansville. Its origin was not learned.
- 3203.** *Rhars* or *G'hars*, sometimes spelled *R'ars*. This is a standard variety of early soft dates in all parts of the northern Sahara. It is much preferred by the Arabs on account of its keeping qualities. It is commonly offered for sale in tight sheepskins. It is of good flavor but has a very large pit. The plant shipped under this number was brought from the M'Zab country in the spring of 1898 and was grown one year in Mr. Yahia's garden at Orleansville; was dug up and shipped early in March, 1899." (*Swingle*.)

3204. MACHILUS TOMENTOSA.**Anis wood.**

From Algeria. Received through Mr. W. T. Swingle, 1899, from the Jardin d'Essai, Mustapha.

It should be tried as a stock for the Avocado pear. This species, received as *M. tomentosa* (a name that could not be traced), was introduced into the Jardin d'Essai at Algiers in 1875. It is now a fine pyramidal tree, 40 or 50 feet high. It bears violet-colored fruits the size of a hen's egg, which have the flavor of the Avocado pear, to which this plant is closely allied. The tree is said to be more hardy than the Avocado pear, and it fruits even in Italy. It has been suggested as a stock on which to graft Avocado pear. It furnishes the Anis wood of cabinetmakers. This may be the *Machilus macrantha* of the East Indies. Dr. Trabut thinks it may be a species of *Persea* from western South America.